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4146 '99 APR -6 A9:47
March 30, 1990

Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management, FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Dr., Room I-23
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

I recently learned of the cruel practice in American chicken/egg farms of **forced molting** during which chickens are starved and sometimes placed into extended darkness in order to induce extra egg-laying cycles. The conditions under which these helpless animals are kept is wretched enough without inflicting further torture. How can it be considered anything less than torture to force an animal to endure such suffering?

I am not a radical or a weirdo. I am an ordinary, educated, voting, tax-paying citizen who finds it unconscionable that our country allows such a practice while Great Britain has banned it and other European countries have greatly restricted it.

I hereby petition for a ban on the forced molting of layer hens. I know your job is difficult and you have to contend with a lot of conflicting constituencies, but I would appreciate the USDA's careful consideration of this issue. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lea E. Selleck

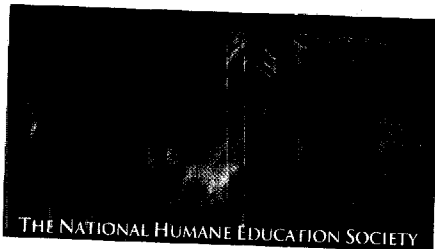
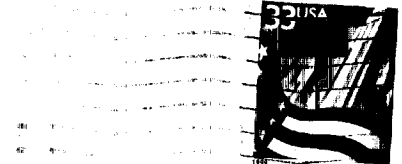
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